

Take Good Care: Stewarding the Good Gifts of Creation

Liturgy for Small Groups and House Churches

Opening Questions (10 minutes)

- What is something from today that brought you joy or thanks?
- Is there a burden you bring into our time together? If so, are you willing to share? *The group is encouraged to receive the words shared as gifts, holding them without providing advice.*

Centering Time (5 minutes)

- Light a candle.
- Read Philippians 4:5b-7: *The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Scripture (10 minutes)

- Pray: *"Lord, open Your Word to our hearts and minds AND our hearts and minds to Your Word."*
- Read the sermon scripture text out loud twice, and then re-tell it.

Scripture Reflection (30 minutes)

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about people?
- How should we respond and put it into practice this week? (aim for concrete statements beginning with "I will...")
- Is there someone in my life with whom I can share what I learned from this passage?

Prayer for One Another (20 minutes)

Prayer for the Church (2 minutes) - from *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*
Lord, help us minister to others in ways that validate and authenticate them as fellow children of God. Keep us from daring to assume that our good fortune is our own doing or that our ability is anything other than a gift. Amen.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.